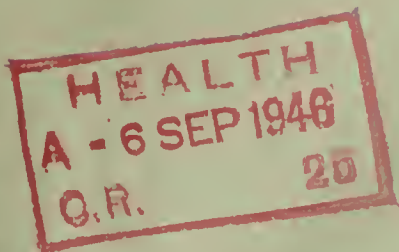


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ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

WILLIAM HOGG, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.R.S.I.

Clerical Staff:

- + MRS.. O.N. LITTLE. (Resigned 31.10.45).
- + MISS. P.M. RUDHALL. (Resigned 23. 6.45).
- + MISS. D.R. PLASCOTT. (Appointed 1.10.45).

(+ Temporary Appointments).

Telephone - Ross 214.

County Offices,
Alton Street,
Ross-on-Wye.

Sanitary Inspector, Sanitary Surveyor and Housing
Designated Officer:

- + G.E. HARDY, L.R.I.B.A., A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

- + C.W.J. MANLEY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., M.I.P.H.&H.
(Appointed 7.5.45)

O.J. SCRUBY (Appointed 24.9.45).

(= Holds Certificate for Meat and Food Inspector).

Telephone - Ross 411.

Woodside,
Ross-on-Wye.

.....

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1945, which is in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 28/46.

No instructions were received from the Council to report upon any special subject concerning the health of the inhabitants.

The year has been one of optimism with the termination of the war, but the change over from war to peace is not without its difficulties.

The health of the inhabitants of the District remained good throughout the year, with the exception of an extensive outbreak of measles which lasted throughout the first and second quarters.

The difficulties with regard to shortage of water did not become quite so great as in the previous year, on account of the more

even distribution of rainfall. Generally speaking, the supplies of the District are responsive to the amount and incidence of rain.

An additional Sanitary Inspector was appointed by the Council in order to meet the needs of the Councils Housing Programme, and Mr. C.W.J. Manley commenced his duties on 7th May, 1945.

I take this opportunity to record my thanks to the Council for the support given me in the discharge of my duties during the year. My thanks are also due to my colleagues for assistance in the preparation of this report and throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

William Hogg

Medical Officer of Health.

February 1946.

SECTION A. - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:-

The Ross and Whitchurch Rural District lies in South Herefordshire surrounding the Urban District of Ross-on-Wye. It is divided into an eastern and western portion by the River Wye, and is an area of unspoiled rural country. The course of the Wye through the District is very beautiful, and is a profitable field for the student of nature and the landscape painter. There are many fine views to be enjoyed and to some extent the heavy felling necessitated by shortage of timber has been beneficial, nevertheless, if this continues without replanting, the countryside will eventually be less attractive.

This delightful scenery attracts a considerable number of visitors, especially in the Symonds Yat area, and catering affords employment for a significant number of workers.

Almost every phase of agriculture is practised in the District at the present time. Hops are grown in the most easterly parts, fruit and arable farming are found in the central portion, and milk production is carried on in numerous farms throughout the area.

General Statistics:

Registrar General's Estimated Resident Population	...	...	11,650
Area (in acres)	...	...	72,105
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1945)	...	...	3,333
Rateable Value	...	...	£42,844
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	£187.15.5.
Estimated Average Number of Persons per Inhabited House	...	...	3.8
Estimated Average Number of Persons per Acre	...	...	0.16
Average Number of Inhabited Houses per Acre	...	...	0.046

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year:

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population...	17.8
Stillbirths Rate per 1,000 Total Births (Live & Still)	46.0
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population (crude)	13.2

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

			<u>Rate per 1,000</u>	
			<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Total Live Births.</u>
Heading No. 29	...	Puerperal Sepsis	NIL	NIL
Heading No. 30	...	Other Puerperal Causes	1	4.8

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age:

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	...	38.3
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...	...	38.0
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	...	...	43.4

Population:-

The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population is 11,650 which compares with a figure of 11,950 for the previous year. This figure shows little variation from the census figures of 11,859 (1921), and 11,608 (1931). The natural increase of population, i.e. the excess of births over deaths, was 53.

The estimated average number of persons per acre is 0.16 and the average number of persons per inhabited house is 3.8. The average number of inhabited houses per acre is 0.046.

Births:-

A total of 207 live births (104 males and 103 females) were registered, giving a birth rate of 17.8 per thousand of the estimated resident population, compared with 16.1 for England and Wales.

The number of illegitimate live births was 23 (13 males and 10 females) which is 11.1% of the total live births.

Stillbirths:-

There were 10 stillbirths registered, which gives a rate of 0.85 per thousand of the estimated resident population.

Deaths:-

The actual number of deaths recorded as having occurred within the Rural District is 154, after deduction of deaths of non-residents and the addition of deaths of residents which occurred outside the District. This gives a crude death rate of 13.2. A Table of Causes of Death according to sex is given at the end of this Report.

Infant Mortality:-

There were 8 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an infantile mortality rate of 38.3 per 1000 live births.

Cancer Deaths:-

There were 19 deaths (9 male and 10 female) attributed to cancer, giving a death rate of 1.6 per 1000 of the estimated resident population.

Diarrhoea Under Two Years:-

One male child under the age of two years died as a result of diarrhoea.

SECTION B. - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA:-Public Health Laboratory:-

The laboratory facilities remain unchanged and the Medical Research Council Public Health Laboratory at the County Offices, Hereford, under the direction of Dr. R. Lwart Jones continues to give most useful assistance to the Department and the medical practitioners of the District. The assistance given to the Department has not been limited to investigations in the laboratory, for Dr. Jones has given much valuable help with investigations in the field.

The following table gives a summary of the work carried out by the laboratory on behalf of the Department:-

Specimens Examined.

Swabs	...	...	...	...	112
Sputum	...	...	...	...	11
Faeces	...	...	...	...	8
Blood	...	...	...	...	1
Milk	...	...	...	...	5
Water - Bacteriological	...			...	51
Water - Chemical	...		...	...	4
Other Bacteriological Examinations	..	...			1

Public Mortuary:-

The Council has arrangements with the Ross-on-Wye Urban District Council for the reception of bodies at the Public Mortuary, Ross-on-Wye. During the year 9 bodies were received from the Rural District.

Water:-

The prevailing geological formation of the District is Old Red Sandstone of the Devonian System with an outcrop of Silurian Limestone along the south eastern boundary from Upton Bishop to Gorsley and Aston Ingham. In the Parishes of Walford and Whitchurch there is an outcrop of Carboniferous Limestone along the southern border.

The Old Red Sandstone does not appear to be very satisfactory water bearing stratum, for springs which appear in winter rapidly disappear in Summer, and most wells give a diminished yield or fail when the rainfall is low.

The water supplies of the District are diverse in character. In the area immediately outside the Urban District boundary the mains of Statutory Undertakers (The Ross Water Undertaking) provide a supply in almost the whole of Ross Rural Parish and in portions of the Parishes of Bridstow, Walford and Weston-under-Penyard. The water supply obtained from these mains was adequate in quantity and of good potable quality throughout the year. This supply is constant and at adequate pressure for the area which it serves, supplies to dwellings being provided by means of separate services which usually are internal.

The water is derived from boreholes in the Old Red Sandstone at the Alton Court Water Works situated within the Urban District Boundary. After leaving the boreholes, it is treated by continuous automatic chlorination in the rising main. The quality of the water is controlled by samples taken by the Urban District Council both before and after chlorination. As a potable water it is of good quality but somewhat hard. It has no appreciable solvent action upon common metals.

The following table shows the number of dwellings connected to the mains according to Parish:-

Bridstow	111	Dwellings
Ross Rural	94	"
Weston-under-Penyard	5	"
Walford	30	"
	<u>240</u>	

The Local Authority provides a piped water supply in the Parishes of Brampton Abbots, Llangarron, Garway and Harewood End. Each of these Schemes gives a constant supply of water of good potable quality with no appreciable solvent action upon ordinary metals.

Brampton Abbots Supply:-

Brampton Abbots is supplied from water purchased in bulk

from the Ross Water Undertaking. A small reservoir and pumping station with automatic electric pumps is provided by the Council. The scheme supplies 26 dwellings, the remainder are supplied by separate services. The water is of excellent potable quality and was adequate in quantity during the year.

Garway Supply:-

This scheme makes use of a land spring which is impounded on high ground. The yield of the spring is subject to considerable variation with the climatic conditions, but up to the present has been adequate for the demand. The water is put into supply without preliminary treatment. The number of dwellings supplied is 43, of which 11 are supplied by means of 4 standpipes.

During the year, the Council had under consideration a proposal to extend the existing main from Garway Common to Broad Oak with a branch to supply farms and cottages at Penrose in the Parish of St. Leonards. The cost of this extension has been approximately estimated and the proposal has received the approval of the Ministry of Health.

Llangarron:-

This piped water supply which supplies part of Llangarron Parish utilises spring water, which is pumped to reservoirs situated on appropriate levels. The water is passed into supply without preliminary treatment and is adequate for the present demands. The yield of the spring is subject to variation correlated with the rainfall. The scheme supplies 134 dwellings mostly by individual services but about 29 dwellings are supplied by 10 stand pipes.

The power for the pump is furnished from a water wheel with a diesel set as a stand by. During the year, it was found that the water driven pump had experienced heavy wear and new pumps were necessary. At the time of writing delivery was anticipated.

Llancloudy:-

This is a separate scheme which supplies the Llancloudy area of Llangarron Parish. The water of a land spring is collected and piped to 20 dwellings and a Prisoner of War Camp.

As the quality of this water has not been entirely satisfactory a chlorinator is provided. This supply has been inadequate for the demand in the past. This now appears to have been overcome as a result of the action of the Ministry of Works, whereby a break-out spring was diverted into the reservoir of the Local Authority as a temporary measure.

Harewood End Supply:-

This small scheme was purchased by the Council in 1944. Water is pumped from a shallow well by power supplied by an overshot water wheel with an internal combustion engine as an auxiliary power unit. The scheme supplies 19 dwellings by piped services.

If all the schemes of the Local Authority are considered together, it will be seen that 242 dwellings within the area are supplied from the Authorities mains by services and a further 40 from stand pipes on the main.

In addition to these supplies, there are in the District a number of small piped schemes in the ownership of private individuals which supply a number of dwellings. These private mains afford supplies in the Parishes of Bridstow, Brockhampton, Foy, Ganerew, Goodrich, Hentland, Hope Mansell, How Caple, Kings Caple, Lea, Marstow, Pennoyd, Weston, Harewood, Upton Bishop, Whitchurch, Walford, St. Leonards, and Welsh Newton.

These utilise water from a variety of sources and are of various degrees of mechanical soundness. The Department cannot exercise

more than a slight supervision over these supplies. The number of dwellings supplied by the largest of these schemes is about 30, whilst the smallest number is 2. In no instance do any of these schemes supply a whole Parish, but in some Parishes more than one scheme is in operation and some systems supply parts of more than one Parish. The total number of dwellings obtaining supplies from these private piped supplies in the whole district is about 350.

The remaining dwellings in the District are supplied from public or private wells, and a considerable number depend upon rain water as the sole supply. These wells are, in general, of the shallow type with all their disadvantages and defects.

In general, it is true to say that the water supplies of the District are not adequate in quantity, and a relatively large proportion of the inhabitants are obliged to rely upon waters of indifferent potable quality. These deficiencies are not uniformly distributed in the area but the Parishes of Whitchurch, Sellack, Hentland, St. Weonards, Goodrich, Peterstow and Ballingham have most pressing needs.

Having these deficiencies before it, the Council instructed a consulting engineer to prepare a scheme for providing all parts of the area with an adequate supply of wholesome water. Shortly afterwards, the same consultant was instructed by the County Council to prepare a similar scheme for the County as a whole. Both these schemes have now been placed before the Local Authorities and can be regarded as under consideration. From a brief perusal of these schemes it can be said that large sums of money would be necessary, and it is doubtful if persons not resident in the Rural Districts have even the slightest interest in such schemes.

The very large number of separate sources of supply renders control of potable waters by Your Officers almost impossible, so a few routine samples and samples where waters are suspected represents the results of the year. The number of samples submitted for bacteriological examination was 51 and the number of samples submitted for chemical examination was 4.

It may be remarked that the number of bacteriological samples submitted was greatly in excess of the number of chemical samples. Furthermore a full examination of a water is usually understood to be an examination by both methods of investigation. This is quite true, but a bacteriological examination is useful as a rapid test for routine purposes and as confirmation of waters where pollution is suspected. In spite of all the difficulties of control, no serious outbreak of water-borne disease occurred amongst the inhabitants of the District.

The Council found that the inadequate water supplies within the area were a restrictive factor in connection with plans for post war housing, and further schemes will need to be developed if the full housing needs are to be met.

Drainage and Sewerage:-

There are only two short lengths of public sewer in the District situated in the Parishes of Upton Bishop and Goodrich. The general method of drainage is by individual septic tanks where a drainage system exists. During the year 14 new drains were provided for existing dwellings.

Closet Accommodation:-

In general it may be said that the modern tendency is towards the up grading of the closet, although progress in this direction was small during this year.

The number of privies converted to pail closets was 2, and the number converted to water closets was 4.

The elimination of privies to pail closets would secure an improvement in the health of the inhabitants and as a preventive measure is to be commended. Unfortunately deficiencies of water supply limit the amount of conversion to water closets which can be carried out.

Public Cleansing:-

There is no system of collection of domestic refuse in operation in the District, nor does the Council undertake the emptying of cesspools.

There appears to be a need for the collection of domestic refuse in certain of the larger Parishes. At present, uncontrolled tips occur in every Parish in any odd corner. As a general rule, the site selected is quite good and the general result is not unsatisfactory. Tins, glass jars and bottles are most difficult and seem to increase steadily.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA:

I am indebted to Mr. George Hardy, L.R.I.B.A., A.R.S.I., Senior Sanitary Inspector, for the following statement furnished under Article 27 (Sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations:-

Inspections:-

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Building Byelaws	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Drains tested (a) Hydraulic Tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
(b) Smoke Tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	157
Factories with Mechanised Power	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Factories without Mechanised Power	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Housing (Rural Workers Act)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Housing (other Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	801
Housing Survey (for Housing Defects):-									
Classified in Group 1,	35.)							
Classified in Group 2,	210.	)	Total	...	...				742
Classified in Groups 3 & 4,	415.)							
Classified in Group 5,	82.)							
Investigations re. Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Water Samples taken (a) Chemical Examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
(b) Bacteriological Examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51

Notices Issued:-

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Statutory re. Housing		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Statutory, under other Acts		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Summary of Defects Remedied Etc:-

(a) Water Supplies:-

New Services from Ross Water Undertaking	....	...	...	...	4
New Services from Council's own Supply	...	...	...	...	8
New Wells provided	...	...	...	...	1
Water Samples taken (a) Chemical Examination	...	...	...	...	4.
(b) Bacteriological Examination	...	...	...	...	51
Sources from which more than one sample was taken	...	...	...	...	Nil
Maximum number of samples taken from one source	...	...	...	...	1

(b) Notifiable Disease:-

Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Number of Lots of Bedding & Bedclothing Disinfected						16
Shelters Disinfected re Tuberculosis	3
Schools Disinfected	Nil

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(c) Drainage and Sewage Disposal:-

New Drains provided for existing Houses	14
Privies converted to Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	2
Privies converted to Water Closets	4

(d) Milk & Dairies Order, 1926:-

Cowsheds Improved	9
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(e) Housing Acts:-

Houses Repaired	6
Nuisances Abated	12
Total number of Houses inspected for Housing Defects	801
(under Public Health or Housing Acts).	...	...	...	...	...	...
Number of visits made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	1167
Number of Dwellings found not to be fit in all respects	...	...	...	...	...	...
for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	707

Swimming Baths:-

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public situated within the District.

School Closures:-

There were no school closures on health grounds during the year.

The structure of the schools within the area are obsolete, and show many defects and lack of cleanliness. Unpaved yards, absence of water supply, defective sanitary accommodation, inadequate cloakrooms, and defective lighting and ventilation are general in the schools. These defects have considerable bearing upon the health and well being of the pupils, and must be a distinct disadvantage to both pupils and teachers.

Camping Sites:-

The number of sites licenced by the Local Authority for use as camping sites, under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936, remained unchanged at 3. In addition seven special harvest camps for school children were established by the County War Executive Agricultural Committee within the District. It is estimated that the maximum number of campers at any time did not exceed 100, excluding the number accommodated in the harvest camps.

In view of the charm of the scenery, it is possible that the popularity of the District as a camping ground may increase in the immediate post war period.

SECTION D. - HOUSING:-

In the early part of the year, the Council, being anxious to deal with the housing problem, as early as possible, concluded that the appointment of an Additional Sanitary Inspector was necessary to carry out the systematic survey of housing conditions in the District, within a reasonable time.

This new appointment was necessary as the Sanitary Inspector, acting as Architect for the Local Authority, was obliged to devote an increasing amount of time to the proposals for the erection of new dwellings by the Council. Efforts were made to secure the services of an Officer with suitable qualifications and Mr. C.W.J. Manley was appointed as Additional Sanitary Inspector on 7th May, 1945. The Council was fortunate in the choice of an Officer well qualified and with adequate experience.

The appointment was justified also on the basis of the population of the area and the amount of general work for the Department.

The fundamental principle of the Rural Housing Survey is a systematic survey of dwellings, of a rateable value not exceeding £12 net, with respect to fitness for human habitation. At the suggestion of the County Joint Advisory Housing Committee, all dwellings were classified in one of five groups

These groups signify as follows:-

- Group 1: Houses, in all respects, fit for human habitation.
- Group 2: Houses requiring minor repairs and/or minor alterations.
- Group 3:)
- Group 4:) Houses requiring major repairs and/or major alterations.
- Group 5: Houses scheduled for demolition.

During the year, a total of 742 housing inspections were made in connection with the housing survey, covering 15 Parishes. The survey was completed in 12 Parishes.

The following table gives an analysis of the work carried out under the survey:-

HOUSING SURVEY

Analysis of Inspections carried out during the year.

Parish.	Classification				Total No. of Houses Inspected
	1	2	3/4	5	
Aston Ingham.	6	47	39	8	100
Ballingham.	1	8	19	5	33
Bridstow.	14	33	62	14	123
Harewood.	-	2	9	1	12
Hentland.	1	29	54	7	91
King's Cople.	5	19	25	7	56
Llandinabo.	1	1	5	1	8
Llanwarne.	1	15	35	14	65
Pencoyd.	1	8	25	1	35
Peterstow.	-	15	34	3	52
Sellack.	-	16	42	9	67
Tretire.	2	4	14	3	23
The Survey was completed in the above Parishes.					
The Survey was not completed in the Parishes below.					
Llangarron.	-	-	1	1	2
Marstow.	3	13	50	8	74
Goodrich.	-	-	1	-	-
Totals.	35	210	415	82	742

The survey represents an accurate classification of the dwellings surveyed as regards fitness for human habitation. It is appreciated that the classification is not rigid, and minor adjustments in the grouping may be necessary subsequently.

It will be noticed that groups 3 and 4 are classified together, being defective to the same degree, but group 4 includes all dwellings which could have been repaired with the aid of a grant if the Housing (Rural Workers) Act 1926 had not lapsed.

Such a systematic housing survey has been very necessary for some time, and the Council has taken prompt adequate steps to carry this out within a reasonable time. Within two years, the survey should be complete. Whilst the survey does not embrace all dwellings in the District, it is sufficiently wide for practical purposes to deal with the housing problem.

The purpose of the survey is ascertainment. Before the Council can estimate with precision the housing requirements for the next few years accurate information of existing housing conditions is essential.

In addition to making significant progress with the Rural Housing Survey, the Council was able to come to a decision regarding the erection of new dwellings, and complete much preliminary work.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, Mr. G. Hardy, was charged with the duty of Architect for housing schemes of the Local Authority, as he had carried out the Emergency Agricultural Scheme rapidly and in a satisfactory manner.

The Council decided upon a first year programme of new house construction of 52 dwellings, of which, 8 were to be of the permanent prefabricated type (Swedish Types A. and D.), and 34 of the permanent traditional brick type.

In order to meet the wishes of the Council, Mr. Hardy designed three types of permanent dwellings, (Types 1, 2, and 3) so as to provide maximum floor space and amenities. These designs were submitted to the Ministry of Health and approval obtained.

The following details are submitted of the various Types:-

Type 1.	977 sq. ft. and 222 sq. ft. outbuildings.
Type 2.	990 sq. ft. and 180 sq. ft. outbuildings.
Type 3.	959 sq. ft. and 170 sq. ft. outbuildings.

The allocation of the programme according to Parish is given below:-

First Year Programme

Walford	...	...	...	4	Swedish Type A.
Lea	...	...	...	4	Swedish Type B.
Garway	...	...	...	4	Type 1.
Brookhampton	...	...	...	4	Type 3.
Brampton Abbotts	...	...	...	4	Type 2.
Harewood End	...	...	...	8	Type 1.
Llangarren	...	...	...	6	Type 2.
Weston-under-Genyard	...	...	...	4	Type 2.
Upton Bishop	...	...	...	4	Type 3.

Contracts for the erection of the 8 Swedish Type houses were signed before the end of the year and arrangements made for the construction to commence in January, 1946.

The erection of new dwellings represents almost a reversal of the policy of the Council of the pre-war period. Before 1939, the number of new dwellings erected by the Local Authority was insignificant.

In accepting the erection of dwellings of an unorthodox type,

the Council has not taken a false step. Prefabrication for permanent houses would appear to be a type of construction that will come to be used with increasing frequency. The urgency of the housing problem and present day building costs will necessitate the increasing use of mechanisation and pre-fabrication.

Piped water supplies will be available for all dwellings constructed under the post war programme, either from mains of the Local Authority or from those of private schemes. The lack of adequate water supplies has been a limiting factor in house construction.

No new dwellings were erected during the year by the Local Authority but the erection of three dwellings by private enterprise was commenced.

There is no evidence that overcrowding in the District is excessive, although some dwellings are overcrowded. One inspection was made on account of overcrowding, and it is probable that any overcrowding that exists can be rapidly abated as the construction of new dwellings proceeds.

Altogether 1544 inspections were made in connection with housing conditions. This shows that good progress is being made and that the housing conditions of the area are receiving considerable attention.

SECTION - E. THE INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD:-

The supervision of milk supplies forms a significant portion of the work of the Sanitary Inspectors. This work can be regarded as embracing two phases. First, the supervision of the methods of production, this is tending to pass out of the sphere of the Sanitary Inspector's duties. The second phase of this work is the maintenance of the sanitary condition of the premises. It is likely that this work may cease to be the responsibility of the Local Authorities at some future time.

A total of 157 visits were made to cowsheds and dairies. This represents a decrease upon the number for the year 1944 which was 201.

At the commencement of the year, there were 294 separate registrations under the Milk and Dairies Order 1926, and at the end of the year this number was 293.

As a result of complaint, the method of production was found to be unsatisfactory on one dairy farm. This arose largely from lack of skilled labour and inadequate supervision and was soon remedied. Considering the difficulties facing producers during the year, I anticipated that the production of clean milk would not have been maintained in a so satisfactory manner.

There are no plants for the pasteurization or sterilisation of milk situated within the District. No licences or supplementary licences for the sale of pasteurized milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936 were granted during the year or at any previous date. The sale of heat treated milk within the District appears to be very limited, and takes place where a retail purveyor purchases milk from the Milk Marketing Board.

Five samples of milk were submitted by the Department to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. One sample showed that the methods of production were unsatisfactory. No evidence was found that milk was the means of spreading disease. In connection with the production of safe milk, the importance of an abundant supply of potable water cannot be ignored.

Meat and Other Foods:-

There are no slaughterhouses in use in the District. Meat intended for human consumption is supplied from the Central Abattoir,

Hereford, which is owned by the Municipal Borough. The necessity for inspection of slaughterhouses did not arise.

There are 12 bakehouses within the District and 16 inspections of these premises were made.

One sample of watercress was submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacterial examination and the findings showed that this was growing in water to some extent polluted. There was no evidence of any pathogenic organisms being present. This plant grows in a number of streams and ditches within the District. A certain amount is probably used as food for human consumption, a use which may not always be without some risk to health. The sale of this commodity appears to be very small within the District.

The following list gives the amount of food found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

14 Cartons	Chocolate Bars.	7.4.45.
44 "	Seedless Raisins.	2.7.45
7 "	Chocolate Bars.	4.8.45
3 lbs.	National Butter.	30.8.45.
2 Cartons.	Seedless Raisins.	19.9.45.

Food and Drug Act 1938, Section 17:-

No notifications of food poisoning or suspected food poisoning were received during the year.

SECTION F. - PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE:-

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease was much greater than in the previous year, when notifications were very few

The following table gives the incidence of notified infectious disease during the year. The figures relate to civilian cases only:-

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING YEAR 1945.

Disease.	Notifications.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Measles	367	5	1
Whooping Cough	8	-	-
Pneumonia	5	1	4
Scarlet Fever	24	9	-
Dysentery	12	-	-
Diphtheria	2	2	-
Erysipelas	3	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	-

It will be observed that measles was easily the most prevalent disease. The first cases of this disease appeared in April 1944, but the incidence was insignificant until October of that year, when the number of notifications rose steadily. The disease continued to spread throughout the first six months of 1945, but the outbreak subsided somewhat rapidly in the third quarter. No cases were notified in the last quarter.

The following table shows the incidence of the disease according to quarter:-

NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN EACH QUARTER

Disease.	1st. Qrt.	2nd. Qrt.	3rd. Qrt.	4th. Qrt.	Year
Measles.	211	149	7	-	367
Whooping Cough.	6	2	-	-	8
Scarlet Fever.	6	3	9	6	24
Diphtheria.	-	1	1	-	2
Erysipelas.	-	-	2	1	3
Dysentery.	-	12	-	-	12
Pneumonia.	4	-	-	1	5

The outbreak was quite a sharp one, most of the patients being children between 5 and 10 years of age. Some of the cases were complicated and one death was due to encephalitis, an uncommon complication. Altogether, 5 patients, all children, were admitted to hospital.

There were 24 notifications of scarlet fever. The disease was mild. Four cases occurred in a small boarding school, and after careful investigation, spread of the disease was prevented. Five cases occurred in Goodrich, but whilst these were probably connected it was difficult to find any fact which linked up all five cases. A further five cases occurred in one family at Yatton. There were no deaths, but nine patients were treated in the Stretton Sugwas Hospital.

The only other disease notified to a significant degree was dysentery. This appeared to be all of the Sonne type, but it is likely that the true incidence was much greater than the notifications suggested. The reason for this is that the disease was, in general, mild and most patients probably did not consult their doctor. The incidence of this disease is sensitive to the sanitary circumstances of the District, for water, food, and flies may be vectors in the spread of infection. Improvement in water supplies, housing and general supervision of sanitation will reduce the incidence of this, as well as other infections of the alimentary system.

The incidence of other infectious diseases was insignificant. Only two cases of diphtheria were notified, both in persons who had not received courses of prophylactic.

The efficiency of notification appears to be high, and there is excellent co-operation between the Medical Practitioners of the area and the Public Health Department.

The following table gives the incidence of infectious disease according to age:-

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE.

Disease.	Under 1	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+	Totals.
Measles	16	23	25	22	25	167	63	11	8	5	2	-	367
Whooping Cough	2	1	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	8
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	5
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	2	11	5	3	2	-	-	-	24
Dysentery	1	1	-	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	-	-	12
Diphtheria	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Totals	19	25	28	26	28	183	69	17	13	7	4	3	422

Diphtheria Immunisation:-

Efforts to secure and maintain the protection of the child population against diphtheria were continued throughout the year with fairly satisfactory results. In connection with this work, I have to acknowledge the great help and co-operation most willingly given by the Medical Practitioners in the District. Without this assistance these satisfactory results would not have been achieved.

The total number of children under 15 years of age who received a complete course of diphtheria prophylactic was 205. The number under five years of age so treated was 159.

The following table gives the analysis of the total according to age group:-

NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO HAD COMPLETED A FULL COURSE OF IMMUNISATION DURING YEAR 1945.

Age Group	Under 1	1+	2+	3+	4+	5 - 9+	10 - 14+	Under 15
Number Immunised	9	83	34	19	14	34	12	205

The table below gives particulars of the immunisation of the child population up to 31st December, 1945.

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1945.								
Age at 31.12.45 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1945	1 1944	2 1943	3 1942	4 1941	5 - 9 1936-40	10 - 14 1931-35	Total under 15
Number Immunised	8	82	99	112	113	729	897	2040
Estimated mid-year population 1945			1010			1840		2850

From these particulars, it will be seen that 41% of the resident child population under the age of 5 years were presumed to be protected, and the corresponding figure for the age group 5 - 15 years was 88.3%. If these two groups are put together it is found that 71.6% of the child population under the age of 15 years is presumed to be protected. Whilst these figures can be regarded as fairly satisfactory, it would seem possible to obtain a result of 90% in both the 0 - 4 group and the 5 - 14 age group. It would therefore be unwise to consider these figures as being the best obtainable.

The present scheme has certain defects. It is not possible to carry out routine Schick Testing (which is a test of the efficiency of the prophylactic agent used), and there is very little demand for reinforcing doses. These should be given at about the age of 5 years and again at about the age of 10 years, their purpose is to maintain the protection at an adequate level.

The proportion of children under 5 years of age who receive prophylactic treatment is unsatisfactory.

Nevertheless, in spite of the imperfections of the state of protection of the susceptible population only one notification of diphtheria in a child under 15 years of age was received. This child had never received

any diphtheria prophylactic.

Scabies:-

There were nine cases of scabies brought to the notice of the Department. This probably represents an under statement of the extent of this disease and the whole problem can be solved by the provision of better housing accommodation and education. It is difficult to be clean with inadequate cleansing facilities.

Tuberculosis:-

The chief function of the Council as a Sanitary Authority is the prevention of tuberculosis. The treatment of this disease is a duty of the County Council. These two functions are difficult to separate, indeed, it may be said impossible to separate, but the Council has opportunities to assist on the preventive side of the tuberculosis problem in such matters as housing, milk supplies and health propaganda.

At the beginning of the year there were 54 cases of tuberculosis on the register, 41 pulmonary and 13 non-pulmonary cases. During the year 29 cases were added, 20 pulmonary and 9 non-pulmonary, of these, 14 pulmonary and 8 non-pulmonary were with respect to new cases. Fourteen cases were removed from the register during the year, 12 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary. At the end of the year therefore, 69 cases remained on the register, 47 pulmonary and 22 non-pulmonary cases.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1945.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15+	-	1	1	2	-	1	1	-
25+	3	3	1	-	2	-	-	-
35+	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
45+	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55+	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	10	4	5	3	3	1	1	-

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Code No:	Cause	Male	Female	Total
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	1	4
7.	Other Tuberculosis Diseases	2	-	2
9.	Influenza	1	1	2
10.	Measles	1	-	1
13a.	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus	2	-	2
13b.	Cancer of Uterus	-	1	1
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	3	3
15.	Cancer of Breast	-	1	1
16.	Cancer (All Other Sites)	7	5	12
17.	Diabetes	-	3	3
18.	Intracranial Vascular Lesions	6	9	15
19.	Heart Disease	25	24	49
20.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	1	4
21.	Bronchitis	2	1	3

CAUSES OF DEATH (Contd:).

Code No:	Cause	Male	Female	Total
22.	Pneumonia	2	2	4
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	-	1	1
24.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	1	3
25.	Diarrhoea (Under 2 Years)	1	-	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	2	2	4
28.	Nephritis	6	6	12
30.	Other Maternal Causes	-	1	1
31.	Premature Birth	2	1	3
32.	Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury, Infancy Diseases	1	1	2
34.	Road Traffic Accident	1	-	1
35.	Other Violent Causes	5	1	6
36.	All Other Causes	10	4	14
All Causes		84	70	154

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